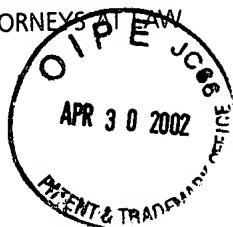




**Stern Kessler
Goldstein Fox**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Robert Greene Sterne
Edward J. Kessler
Jorge A. Goldstein
David K.S. Cornwell
Robert W. Esmond
Tracy-Gene G. Durkin
Michele A. Cimbala
Michael B. Ray
Robert E. Sokohl
Eric K. Steffe
Michael Q. Lee
Steven R. Ludwig
John M. Covert
Linda E. Alcorn
Robert C. Millonig
Lawrence B. Bugaisky
Donald J. Featherstone
Michael V. Messinger
Judith U. Kim
Timothy J. Shea, Jr.

Patrick E. Garrett
Jeffery T. Helvey*
Heidi L. Kraus
Crystal D. Sayles
Edward W. Yee
Albert L. Ferro*
Donald R. Banowitz
Peter A. Jackman
Molly A. McCall
Teresa U. Medler
Jeffrey S. Weaver
Kendrick P. Patterson
Vincent L. Capuano
Albert J. Fasulo II*
Eldora Ellison Floyd
W. Russell Swindell
Thomas C. Fiala
Brian J. Del Buono*
Virgil Lee Beaton*
Reginald D. Lucas*

Kimberly N. Reddick
Theodore A. Wood
Elizabeth J. Haanes
Bruce E. Chalker
Joseph S. Ostroff
Frank R. Cottingham*
Christine M. Lhulier
Rae Lynn Prengaman*
Jane Shershenovich*
Lawrence J. Carroll*
George S. Bardmesser

Senior Counsel
Samuel L. Fox
Kenneth C. Bass III

Registered Patent Agents
Karen R. Markowicz
Andrea J. Kamage

Nancy J. Leith
Joseph M. Conrad III
Ann E. Summerfield
Helene C. Carlson
Gaby L. Longworth
Matthew J. Dowd
Aaron L. Schwartz
Angelique G. Uy
Boris A. Matvenko
Mary B. Tung
Katrina Y. Pei
Bryan L. Skelton
Jason D. Eisenberg
Alicia M. Choi

*Admitted only in Maryland
*Admitted only in Virginia
*Admitted only in Texas

1652
Copy
of #26

April 30, 2002

RECEIVED

MAY 06 2002

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:

(202) 218-7824

INTERNET ADDRESS:

glongs@skgf.com

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECH CENTER 1600/2300

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/229,173; Filed: January 13, 1999
For: **Cloned DNA Polymerases from *Thermotoga maritima* and Mutants
Thereof**
Inventor: CHATTERJEE, DEB K.
Our Ref: 0942.2800008/RWE/RCM
Art Unit: 1652

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Preliminary Amendment; and
2. One return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents

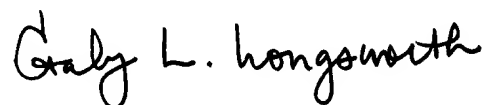
April 30, 2002

Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Gaby L. Longworth
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 47,756

RWE/RCM/GLL/eaf

Enclosures

SKGF_DC1:9219.1



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

CHATTERJEE, DEB K.

Appl. No. 09/229,173

Filed: January 13, 1999

For: **Cloned DNA Polymerases from
Thermotoga maritima and
Mutants Thereof**

Art Unit: 1652

Examiner: Hutson, R.

Atty. Docket: 0942.2800008/RWE/RCM

RECEIVED

Preliminary Amendment

MAY 06 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Sir:

Further to the filing of a CPA on February 19, 2002, and the Examiner interview on March 27, 2002, it is respectfully requested that the following amendment to the claims be entered. This amendment is provided in the following format:

- (A) A clean version of each replacement paragraph/section/claim along with clear instructions for entry;
- (B) Starting on a separate page, appropriate remarks and arguments. 37 C.F.R. § 1.115 and MPEP 714; and
- (C) Starting on a separate page, a marked-up version entitled: "Version with markings to show changes made."

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. In the event that any extensions of time are required to prevent the abandonment of this application, such